

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the present amendments that conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is being introduced by this Amendment as antecedent support is set forth in the original specification and in the original claims.

Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Attorneys at the below-listed telephone number regarding this Preliminary Amendment or otherwise regarding the present application.

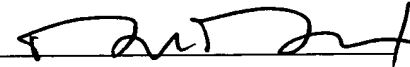
If there are any charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The section title before the first paragraph on the first page is rewritten herein as follows:

“[TECHNICAL]FIELD OF THE INVENTION”

The section between the first and second paragraph title on the first page is rewritten as follows:

“[BACKGROUND] DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART”

The section title between the third and fourth paragraphs on the second is rewritten herein as follows:

“SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION[PROBLEM STRUCTURE]”.

The fourth paragraph on the second page is rewritten herein as follows:

“The present invention [has for its object to form the method intimated by way of introduction such that it is possible, according to the] provides a method[, to] of manufactur[e]ing a hood which obviates the drawbacks inherent in hoods according to prior art technology, and in particular[to] improves the sound-suppression capability of the hood. The present invention further [has for this object to form the method such that it permits] provides extremely rational production of hoods, at the same time as these can be given an extremely aesthetically attractive appearance.”

The fifth paragraph on the second page is rewritten herein as follows:

“The present invention also [has for its object to design the hood intimated by way of introduction such that this] obviates the drawbacks inherent in priori art designs and constructions, and in particular improves the sound-suppression capability of the hood. Finally, the present invention [also has for its object to design] provides a the hood such that [this] it may be manufactured economically and rationally in large series and that it may be given an aesthetically attractive exterior.”

The last paragraph on page 2, continuing onto page 3, is rewritten herein as follows:

“[The objects forming the basis of the present invention will be attained in respect of the method if this is characterized in that the] More specifically, the invention provides a hood that is injection moulded to one single continuous piece using plastic materials with different properties in at least one respect.”

The section title located after the last paragraph on the second page is rewritten as follows:

“BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE [ACCOMPANYING] DRAWINGS”

The section title located before the first complete paragraph on the third page is rewritten herein as follows:

“DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE [PREFERRED EMBODIMENT] INVENTION”

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 are re-written herein as follows:

1. (Marked Up/Amended) A method of producing a hood for a hearing protector, comprising: [the hood being produced by] injection moulding of plastic material[, characterised in that the hood is injection moulded to] into a single contiguous piece employing plastic materials with different properties in at least one respect.
2. (Marked Up/Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the plastic materials are employed in both homogeneous and in porous or foamed form.
3. (Marked Up/Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], [characterised in that] wherein at least two different plastic materials are employed.

4. (Marked Up/Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, [characterised in that] wherein plastic materials of different densities are employed.

5. (Marked Up/Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3 [or 4], [characterised in that] wherein plastic materials of different hardnesses are employed.

6. (Marked Up/Amended) The method as claimed in [any of] Claim[s] 3 [to 5], [characterised in that] wherein plastic materials with different modulus of elasticity are employed.

7. (Marked Up/Amended) A hood for hearing protector[, the hood (1) being] produced from plastic by injection moulding, [characterised in that it includes] comprising:

at least two mutually contiguous portions [or layers (6, 7, 8; 10, 11; 13, 14)] which [consists of] comprise plastic materials with different properties in at least one respect.

8. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein the portions include an outer and an inner layer [(6, 7, respectively)] of a first plastic material with a first group of properties and an intermediate layer [(8)] located therebetween and comprising [consisting of] a second plastic material with a second group of properties.

9. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in Claim [7 or] 8, [characterised in that] wherein the outer and inner layers [(6, 7, respectively)] are relatively hard, while] have a hardness greater than the intermediate layer [(8) is softer or has foamed structure].

10. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in Claim [7 or] 8, [characterised in that] wherein the intermediate layer [(8) is relatively hard while] has a

hardness greater than the outer and inner layers [(6, 7, respectively) are softer or have foamed structure].

11. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein the portions include two material layers [(13, 14)], of which at least one has surfaces which are free towards both [the] an outside and an inside of the hood [(1) and towards its inside].

12. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein the portions include two material layers [(13, 14)] which both have surfaces which are free towards [the] an outside of the hood [(1)] and surfaces which are free towards the inside of the hood.

13. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in [any of] Claim[s] 7 [to 12], [characterised in that] wherein at least one [of the] portion[s consists of] comprises a different plastic material than [the other/others] another portion.

14. (Marked Up/Amended) The hood as claimed in Claim[s] 7 [to 13], [characterised in that] wherein a portion [(13')] is disposed along [the] a peripheral edge [(4)] of the hood, is produced from a soft and elastic material, and is designed for sealing against [the] an abutment ring [(3)] which is disposed along the peripheral edge [(4)] of the hood [(1)] and designed to abut against [the] a head of [the] a wearer of the hearing protector in which the hood is included.